

The White Terror

Save Comrade Gurmuk Singh !

Two Indian revolutionaries, Comrade Gurmuk Singh and his companion, were arrested on August 7, 1933, near Bhati-Kot fort (Afghanistan) by the Afghan frontier patrol officer as they were entering the territory of the free tribe. This officer searched them all over and took away from them fourteen pounds in gold and 90 rupees, leaving them only with their underclothing. They were taken next day to the governor of Jalahabad, who ordered ten pound shackles to be placed on them and that they be placed along with common criminals. For four days they were given nothing to eat. When the governor ascertained their identity they were transferred to another jail and locked up in separate cells. They were not allowed any visit from the doctor or any medical attention. After a month of this treatment the police removed them from Jalahabad to Kabul under military escort. The two comrades were not allowed to speak to each other on the way.

As soon as the superintendent of the Kabul prison saw them he became furiously enraged and ordered the jailer to place still heavier shackles on them and threatened that if they spoke to any of the other prisoners they would be beaten with canes until the skin came off them, and also informed them they would be allowed to go to the lavatory only twice a day. The superintendent gave them two loaves of bread and one blanket each. Thus they spent the whole winter with only one light blanket as a covering, with the thermometer 15 degrees below zero. The barbarous Afghan government has taken no notice of their continual complaints.

The Afghan government does not provide prisoners with food, clothes, or bed. Nor does it allow prisoners to bath, or to wash their clothes. No vessels are provided from which to drink water, but the prisoners are driven like sheep to drink out of the ditch running through the jail yard. A prisoner can get a piece of bread only if he proves that he has absolutely no friends or acquaintances. But even in this case he is not given bread, but is sent with a policeman to beg bread in the city. When Gurmuk Singh and his comrade were in Jalahabad they asked the jailer, after being without food for four days, when they would get bread. The jailer replied: "There are many Hindus in this city; I will send you with a policeman to go and beg."

After being fifteen days in Kabul jail, Gurmuk Singh and his comrade asked that the government either give them food, clothes, and bedding or allow them to get them from their friends and relatives. The superintendent said: "You are not allowed to get anything from outside, and in this way you will be killed." When they asked permission to write to the Foreign Minister or Prime Minister, this was refused. Comrade Gurmuk Singh went on a hunger strike on October 25, but the Afghan government took no notice of this. No doctor visited him during his hunger strike, which lasted for seventeen days.

At the end of the hunger strike Gurmuk Singh was given half-baked bread and very cold water, with the obvious intention of killing him. The weather is very cold in Kabul, with heavy snowfalls, but the government makes no arrangements to heat the jail. Prisoners are given neither warm clothing nor hot food. These are the conditions under which these comrades are kept, without food, clothing, or warmth.

Seven months have passed, during which time these two comrades have not been able to have a bath, to wash themselves, or change their clothes. They have become so weak that there is no hope of their being restored to health. Nothing objectionable was found on them on their arrest, not even a piece of paper. They have been held in jail for seven months, during which time the government has not commenced any proceedings against them.

From all this it is evident that the Afghan government is acting on the orders of British imperialism. British imperialism is aiming at murdering them through its agent, the Afghan government.

We appeal to the masses, to all revolutionaries, to all sympathisers with the cause of India's freedom, to take up this case and expose the nature of the false independence of the Afghan government. Show that this government is a tool of British imperialism, used by it to suppress the Afghan masses and Indian revolutionaries. Expose the Afghan government as the enemy of India's freedom! Save Comrade Gurmuk Singh from the clutches of the enemies of India's independence!